

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An electroconductive endless-belt of tandem system, for transfer and/or conveyance which is circulatorily driven by a drive unit, and which conveys a recording medium retained on the belt by electrostatic attraction to four kinds of image formation members, and sequentially transfers each toner image onto the recording medium, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the endless belt comprises:

as a base material, at least one member selected from the group consisting of acrylonitrile-styrene resin containing 3 to 50 mass % of a flexible component having glass transition temperature lower than 25°C, a polymer alloy of a thermoplastic resin with acrylonitrile-styrene resin containing 3 to 50 mass % of a flexible component having glass transition temperature lower than 25°C, and a polymer blend of a thermoplastic resin with acrylonitrile-styrene resin containing 3 to 50 mass % of a flexible component having glass transition temperature lower than 25°C.

2. (Currently Amended) An electroconductive endless-belt which is used for an intermediate transfer member, is located between an image formation body and a recording medium, and is circulatorily driven with a drive unit, thereby once transferring and retaining, on the surface of itself, a toner image formed on the surface of the image formation body, and then transferring the image thereon onto the recording medium, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the endless-belt comprises:

as a base material, at least one member selected from the group consisting of acrylonitrile-styrene resin containing 3 to 50 mass % of a flexible component having glass transition temperature lower than 25°C, a polymer alloy of a thermoplastic resin with

acrylonitrile-styrene resin containing 3 to 50 mass % of a flexible component having glass transition temperature lower than 25°C, and a polymer blend of a thermoplastic resin with acrylonitrile-styrene resin containing 3 to 50 mass % of a flexible component having glass transition temperature lower than 25°C.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The electroconductive endless-belt according to the claim 1 or 2, wherein ~~the aforementioned~~ said flexible component is acrylic rubber, chlorinated polyethylene, polybutadiene rubber, ethylene propylene rubber or silicone rubber.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The electroconductive endless-belt according to the claim 3, wherein ~~the aforementioned~~ said flexible component is polybutadiene rubber.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The electroconductive endless-belt according to the claim 1 or 2, wherein ~~the aforementioned~~ said thermoplastic resin is a thermoplastic ~~elastmer~~ elastomer.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The electroconductive endless-belt according to the claim 1 or 2, wherein ~~the aforementioned~~ said thermoplastic is ~~polybutylene~~ polybutylene terephthalate.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The electroconductive endless-belt according to the claim ~~for~~ 1 or 2, wherein ~~the aforementioned~~ said thermoplastic is polycarbonate.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The electroconductive endless-belt according to the claim 1 or 2, wherein ~~the aforementioned~~ said thermoplastic is polyamide.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The electroconductive endless-belt according to the claim 5, wherein ~~the aforementioned~~ said thermoplastic is thermoplastic polyether.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The electroconductive endless-belt according to the claim 1 or 2, wherein an electroconductive material is incorporated as a functional component.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The electroconductive endless-belt according to the claim 10, wherein ~~the aforementioned~~ said electroconductive material is carbon black in an amount of 0.1 to 100 parts by mass based on 100 parts by mass of the resin component.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The electroconductive endless-belt according to the claim 1 or 2, wherein the volume resistance of the belt is 10^6 to $10^{13} \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The electroconductive endless-belt according to the claim ~~1 or~~ 1 or 2, wherein an engaging member engaging with a drive unit is provided on the contacting side of the belt with said drive unit.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The electroconductive endless-belt according to the claim 13, wherein the engaging member is a continuous protruded convexity along the rotating direction.

15. (Original) An image formation apparatus equipped with an electroconductive endless-belt according to the claim 1 or 2.

16. (New) The electroconductive endless-belt according to the claim 1 or 2, wherein said acrylonitrile styrene resin containing 3 to 50 mass % of a flexible component having glass transition temperature T_g lower than 25°C is acrylonitril acryl rubber styrene resin [ASA (ASS) resin], acrylonitril-chlorinated polyethylene-styrene resin (ACS resin), acrylonitrile butadiene styrene resin (ABS resin), acrylonitrile ethylene propylene styrene resin (AES resin), or acrylonitrile silicone styrene resin (ASS resin).

17. (New) The electroconductive endless-belt according to the claim 16, wherein said acrylonitrile styrene resin containing 3 to 50 mass % of a flexible component having glass transition temperature T_g lower than 25°C is acrylonitrile butadiene styrene resin (ABS resin).

18. (New) An electroconductive endless-belt, comprising:
as a base material, at least one member selected from the group consisting of
acrylonitrile-styrene resin containing 3 to 50 mass % of a flexible component
glass transition temperature lower than 25°C ,
a polymer alloy of a having thermoplastic resin with acrylonitrile-styrene resin
containing 3 to 50 mass % of a flexible component having glass transition
temperature lower than 25°C , and
a polymer blend of a thermoplastic resin with acrylonitrile-styrene resin
containing 3 to 50 mass % of a flexible component having glass transition
temperature lower than 25°C .

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19. (New) An image formation apparatus equipped with an electroconductive endless-belt according to the claim 18.

20. (New) The electroconductive endless-belt according to the claim 18, which comprises one layer.

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

The claims have been amended to better conform to US claim format.

New Claims 16-20 have been added.

New Claim 16 is supported at page 13 to 14, at paragraph [0025].

New Claim 17 is supported at page 14, line 11 and at page 20, Example 1 at paragraph [0041].

New Claim 18 is supported by Claims 1 and 2 as originally filed.

New Claim 19 is supported by Claim 15 as originally filed.

New Claim 20 is supported by Example 1 of the present invention.

No new matter is believed to have been added by entry of this amendment. Entry and favorable reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this amendment Claims 1-20 will now be active in this application.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Tran for the helpful and courteous discussion with Applicants' Representative on July 13, 2005. During this discussion it was noted that Masuda et al (US 6,175,712) and Niimi (US 6,132,911) fail to disclose or suggest an endless belt as claimed having a acrylonitrile-styrene resin, a polymer alloy of a having thermoplastic resin with acrylonitrile-styrene resin or a polymer blend of a thermoplastic resin with acrylonitrile-styrene resin, each having the claimed amount of flexible component and glass transition temperature.